

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Corry Forge Company

Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

Value Stream Process Leads to Cost Savings at Corry Forge Company

Client Profile:

Corry Forge Company, located in Corry Pennsylvania was chartered in February 2003 as a manufacturing subsidiary of Ellwood City Forge. The Corry facility specializes in disks, hubs, rotors, shafts and related products for manufacturers in a wide variety of industries. It also specializes in the production of rods, hollow parts, nozzles and similar parts for the U.S. Navy and commercial nuclear programs. Corry Forge employs 51 people.

Situation:

Corry Forge needed to improve the throughput and productivity of the forge press operation from order entry through to final forge. The company looked to the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NWIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

Corry Forge selected a consultant recommended by NWIRC, and agreed on a Value Stream Mapping (VSM) program with teams of employees from the areas involved in the process working under the guidance of a Lean coach. The objective of the project was to create a specific plan of action to meet defined operating goals within a specific time period. After receiving training in Lean manufacturing basics, with a focus on VSM, the company worked through a Kaizen event focusing on material and information flows. The team gathered data on the cycle time, work time, quality, waste and other areas and analyzed the current state relative to the 8 types of process wastes. With that data, the team was able to brainstorm ideas to reduce or eliminate the inherent wastes in the process. A formal action plan was created to assist them in implementing the changes that would lead to a more streamlined and efficient process for products being manufactured through their forge press operation.

Results:

- * Realized \$5,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced cycle time by 28 percent.
- * Invested \$15,000 in workforce development.

Testimonial:

"The lean training and VSM process facilitated through the NWIRC, has helped start Corry Forge on its Lean journey. We are continuing to use the action steps that were identified to continue to improve our processes and eliminate wastes."

Keith Deutsch, Operations Manager